

Testimony
House Bill 1076 – Department Of Human Services
House Judiciary Committee
Kim Koppelman, Chairman
January 15, 2013

Chairman Koppelman, members of the House Judiciary Committee, I am Jim Fleming, Director of the Child Support Enforcement Division of the Department of Human Services (Child Support). I am here in support of one of the changes to current law that is proposed in House Bill 1076.

Line 12 of the bill clarifies that bail may be applied to any child support obligation owed by the defendant. On average, North Dakota parents tend to honor their court-ordered child support obligations. However, there are some obligors who successfully conceal their money or other assets from Child Support. Posting bail is one of those opportunities when otherwise hidden assets may come to the court's attention, so we support the clarification as a way to help collect child support.

Since Child Support does not attempt to collect an obligor's child support through relatives or other third parties who may post bail, we have no position on the remainder of the bill.

I would be glad to answer any questions the Committee may have.